IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please AMEND claims 8, 16 and 19 in accordance with the following:

1. (previously presented) A method for the manufacture of heat exchangers and apparatuses having brazed parts, comprising the steps of:

(a) juxtaposing at least two parts to define one or more joints therebetween;

(b) supplying to said one or more joints an iron/chromium brazing filler metal;

(c) heating said juxtaposed parts and said brazing filler metal under appropriate conditions in order to melt said brazing filler metal;

(d) cooling said juxtaposed parts and said brazing filler metal to produce a solid brazed joint of a brazed assembly; and

(e) conditioning said brazed parts by exposure to an elevated temperature in an oxygen-containing atmosphere for a time sufficient to substantially reduce the amount of nickel leaching into water or other fluids contacting the brazed joint of said brazed assembly.

2. (cancelled)

3. (previously presented) A method as recited by claim 1, wherein said oxygen-containing atmosphere is air.

4. (previously presented) A method as recited by claim 1, wherein said elevated temperature ranges from about 300°C to 600°C.

5. (original) A method as recited by claim 4, wherein said elevated temperature ranges from about 350°C to 500°C.

6. (original) A method as recited by claim 1, wherein said time ranges from about 8 to 24 hours.

7. (original) A method as recited by claim 1, wherein said iron/chromium brazing filler metal consists essentially of a composition having the formula $Fe_aCr_bCo_cNi_dMo_eW_fB_gSi_h$ wherein the subscripts "a", "b", "c", "d", "e", "f", "g", and "h" are in atom percent and wherein, "b" ranges from about 5 to 20, "c" ranges from 0 to about 30, "d" ranges from 0 to about 20, "e" ranges from 0 to about 5, "f" ranges from 0 to about 5, "g" ranges from about 8 to 15, "h" ranges from about 8 to 15, and the sum "a"+"b"+"c"+"d"+"e"+"f"+"g"+"h"=100, the balance being incidental impurities present in an amount up to about 1 percent by weight of the total composition.

8. (currently amended) A method for joining two or more metal parts to form a brazed joint in a brazed assembly, comprising the steps of:

(a) juxtaposing said parts to define one or more joints therebetween;

(b) supplying to the one or more joints an iron/chromium brazing filler metal;

(c) heating said juxtaposed parts and said brazing filler metal to melt said brazing filler metal; ~~and~~

(d) cooling said juxtaposed parts and said melted brazing filler metal to produce a brazed joint having brazed parts; and

(e) conditioning the brazed parts by exposing said brazed joint to an elevated temperature, in an oxygen-containing atmosphere, for a sufficient time to substantially reduce the amount of nickel leaching into water or other fluids contacting the brazed joint in said brazed assembly.

9. (cancelled)

10. (previously presented) A method as recited by claim 8, wherein the oxygen-containing atmosphere is air.

11. (previously presented) A method as recited by claim 8, wherein said elevated temperature ranges from about 300°C to 600°C.

12. (original) A method as recited by claim 11, wherein said elevated temperature ranges from about 350°C to 500°C.

13. (previously presented) A method as recited by claim 8, wherein said time ranges from about 8 to 24 hours.

14. (original) A method as recited by claim 8, wherein said iron/chromium brazing filler metal consists essentially of a composition having the formula $Fe_aCr_bCo_cNi_dMo_eW_fB_gSi_h$ wherein the subscripts "a", "b", "c", "d", "e", "f", "g", and "h" are in atom percent and wherein, "b" ranges from about 5 to 20 "c" ranges from 0 to about 30, "d" ranges from 0 to about 20, "e" ranges from 0 to about 5, "f" ranges from 0 to about 5, "g" ranges from about 8 to 15, "h" ranges from about 8 to 15, and the sum "a"+"b"+"c"+"d"+"e"+"f"+"g"+"h"=100, the balance being incidental impurities present in an amount up to about 1 percent by weight of the total composition.

15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) A heat exchanger comprising at least one joint brazed with an iron/chromium brazing filler metal consisting essentially of a composition having the formula $Fe_aCr_bCo_cNi_dMo_eW_fB_gSi_h$ wherein the subscripts "a", "b", "c", "d", "e", "f", "g", and "h" are in atom percent and wherein, "b" ranges from about 5 to 20, "c" ranges from 0 to about 30, "d" ranges from 0 to about 20, "e" ranges from 0 to about 5, "f" ranges from 0 to about 5, "g" ranges from about 8 to 15, "h" ranges from about 8 to 15, and the sum "a"+"b"+"c"+"d"+"e"+"f"+"g"+"h"=100, the balance being incidental impurities present in an amount up to about 1 percent by weight of the total composition.

17. (previously presented) A heat exchanger comprising at least two parts forming one of a plurality of brazed joints in a brazed assembly, said heat exchanger being produced by a process comprising the steps of:

(a) juxtaposing said at least two parts to define one or more joints therebetween;

(b) supplying to said one or more joints an iron/chromium brazing filler metal;

(c) heating said juxtaposed parts and said brazing filler metal to melt the brazing filler metal;

(d) cooling said juxtaposed parts and said melted brazing filler metal to produce a brazed joint having brazed parts; and

(e) conditioning the brazed parts by exposing said brazed joint to an elevated temperature, in an oxygen-containing atmosphere, for a sufficient time to substantially reduce the amount of nickel leaching into water or other fluids contacting the brazed joints of the brazed assembly.

18. (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) A heat exchanger as recited by claim 17, wherein said iron/chromium brazing filler metal consists essentially of a composition having the formula $Fe_aCr_bCo_cNi_dMo_eW_fB_gSi_h$ wherein the subscripts "a", "b", "c", "d", "e", "f", "g",and "h" are in atom percent and wherein, "b" ranges from about 5 to 20, "c" ranges from 0 to about 30, "d" ranges from 0 to about 20, "e" ranges from 0 to about 5, "f" ranges from 0 to about 5, "g" ranges from about 8 to 15, "h" ranges from about 8 to 15, and the sum "a"+"b"+"c"+"d"+"e"+"f"+"g"+"h"=100, the balance being incidental impurities present in an amount up to about 1 percent by weight of the total composition.

20-22. (cancelled)

23. (previously presented) A method for the manufacture of heat exchangers and apparatuses having brazed parts, comprising the steps of:

(a) juxtaposing at least two parts to define one or more joints therebetween;

(b) supplying to said one or more joints an iron/chromium brazing filler metal consisting essentially of a composition having the formula $Fe_aCr_bCo_cNi_dMo_eW_fB_gSi_h$ wherein the subscripts "a", "b", "c", "d", "e", "f", "g", and "h" are in atom percent and wherein, "b" ranges from about 5 to 10, "c" ranges from 0 to about 10, "d" ranges from 0 to about 10, "e" ranges from 0 to about 3, "f" ranges from 0 to about 3, "g" ranges from about 8 to 15, "h" ranges from about 8 to 15, the sum "g"+"h" ranges from about 18 to 25, and the sum "a"+"b"+"c"+"d"+"e"+"f"+"g"+"h"=100, the balance being incidental impurities present in an amount up to about 1 percent by weight of the total composition;

(c) heating said juxtaposed parts and said brazing filler metal under appropriate conditions in order to melt said brazing filler metal; and

(d) cooling said juxtaposed parts and said brazing filler metal to produce a solid brazed joint of a brazed assembly.

24. (previously presented) A method as recited by claim 23, wherein said brazing filler metal is in the form of a homogeneous, ductile ribbon.

25. (previously presented) A method as recited by claim 23, further comprising the step of:

(e) conditioning said brazed parts by exposure to an elevated temperature in an oxygen-containing atmosphere for a time sufficient to substantially reduce the amount of nickel leaching into water or other fluids contacting the brazed joint of said brazed assembly.